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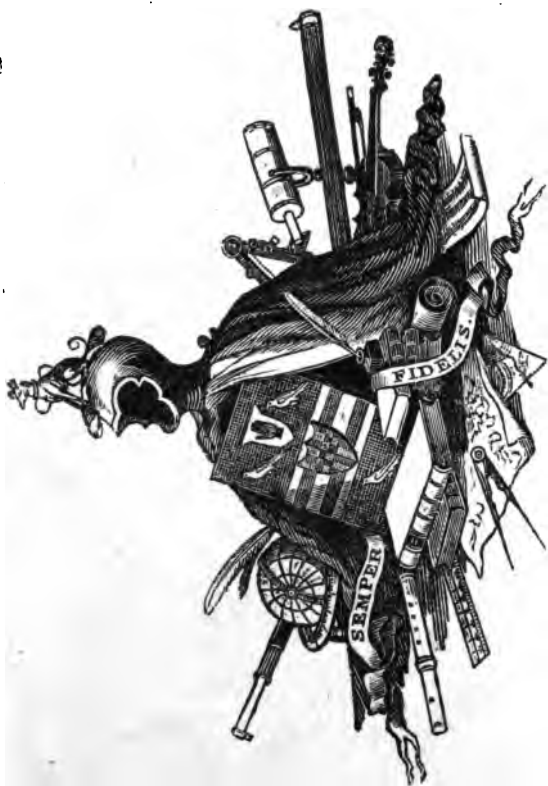
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THE
STRANGER IN ENGLAND;
OR,
Travels in Great Britain.

CONTAINING
REMARKS
ON THE
POLITICS—LAWS—MANNERS—CUSTOMS—AND DIS-
TINGUISHED CHARACTERS OF THAT COUNTRY;
AND CHIEFLY ITS
METROPOLIS:

WITH
CRITICISMS ON THE STAGE.

THE WHOLE INTERSPERSED WITH A VARIETY OF
CHARACTERISTIC ANECDOTES.

FROM THE GERMAN OF
C. A. G. GOEDE.

IN THREE VOLUMES.
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1807.



TRAVELS

IN

GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

CHAP. I.

MUSEUMS in England—Instances of extraordinary Liberality in English Amateurs—Antiques diffused in England—Large Antique Vase belonging to Mr. Edwards of London—His Library—Remarkable difference between the Ancient and Modern Collections of Paintings in England—The Politeness of the English towards Foreigners—English Tourists—Catalogues of English Museums defective—Count Truchesse's Museum—Frequent Sales of Works of Art in England—The King's Gallery at Buckingham-house—Some Account of Original Paintings—Busts and Antiquities—The Gallery of the Marquis of Landsdowne at Shelbourne-house—His Library—Mr. Townley's Collection of Antiques—Cursory View of Statues.

THE nobility and gentry of England have, since the French revolution, greatly indulged their love of pomp by

embellishing their houses with the most valuable works of art. And prudent dealers in those articles have availed themselves of this mania to purchase considerable galleries in France and Italy, for the London market, where they found liberal purchasers; for Englishmen seize the opportunity of obtaining possession of a collection of paintings, which they would not, perhaps, take the trouble to acquire by degrees. The title and rank of an opulent amateur in the arts gained such distinction in the English fashionable world, that many thought they could not purchase it at too high a rate. Thus within the last fifteen years a greater number of museums has arisen in London, than this city ever before possessed. Paintings were generally chosen, and there are now in England upwards of twenty galleries of paintings, independent of an amazing num-

ber of smaller collections. I have myself seen eleven of the former. In the smaller collections of paintings, however, a greater number of master-pieces may be found than in the larger. For as the love of pomp had been directed to the fine arts, the English passionately sought to distinguish themselves by the possession of the most curious and admirable works of art. It is no longer a mere proverb, that valuable paintings are worth their weight in gold in England; and I will relate two instances. Mr. Angerstein paid for two paintings of Murillos' the sum of one and twenty thousand dollars, and about three and twenty thousand dollars for a masterpiece of Sebastian Piombo. Mr. Eschford, of Fonthill, expended about forty thousand dollars on the purchase of the two celebrated landscapes which formerly adorned the palace Altieri at Rome. Neither Mr. Angerstein, nor

Mr. Beckford, possess large galleries; but their collections of paintings contain the most valuable and choice specimens of the art.

The amazing impediments which obstruct the establishment of a collection of antiques in England, seem to have inspired English amateurs with redoubled zeal. It is almost incredible; what an extraordinary mass of ancient works of art has been collected in England during the last fifteen years. There are, at present, twelve considerable collections of antiques in the kingdom; among which the princely gallery of the Earl of Pembroke, and the collection of Charles Townley, Esq. are the most prominent.

It is remarkable, that many Englishmen, who do not care to acquire a museum, strive with great expence and

trouble to obtain possession of some single celebrated antique, in which they rejoice more than if they possessed them all. Thus an incredible number of fine antiques is scattered all over England. Mr. Hawkins possesses a bronzed Patera, the exceeding beauty of which is highly praised; the Earl of Warwick has an antique marble vase, much celebrated for its size and the excellence of its workmanship; the Earl of Exeter has a famous statue of Bacchus; and Mr. Duncombe the much celebrated antique dog of Jennings the banker (a name which is frequently mentioned in the *monumenti inediti* of Wenckelmann) for which he paid one thousand pounds. None of these possess a collection of antiques, although the above-mentioned would adorn the finest and largest collection. But, perhaps, all these insulated remains of antiquity are surpassed in beauty by a work of art, which is no

doubt unique. Mr. Edwards, late a bookseller of Pall Mall, now retired from business, possesses the largest and most beautiful Etruscan vase that ever was seen. This magnificent vessel, with which none of the Hamiltonian vases can bear a comparison in point of size and elegance, is three and a half English feet high, of an indescribably beautiful form, and so well preserved that it seems to have been just finished. The body of the vessel is surrounded by a double row of painted figures: in the upper circle Minerva, Apollo, Diana, Hercules, Castor, and Pollux, are represented; and the lower circle displays the combat of Theseus with the Amazon. This superb vase was dug up in the year 1790 in the vicinity of Lecce, whence it came into the valuable collection of the King of Naples. At the conquest of that kingdom, the French General Oudinot obtained possession of it,

and caused it to be sent to England, where Mr. Edwards bought it for one thousand guineas. This is the only ancient monument of art that Mr. E. possesses; it stands in the back ground of his library, on a mahogany pedestal under a glass cover. His library is also most remarkable; it contains a collection of scarce editions of the classics, which is, perhaps, unique from its exceeding perfection and the choise beauty of the copies. The *editiones principes* may be found here as neat, as if they had just issued from the press. Mr. Edwards has procured many of the greatest and most scarce curiosities of the kind from the libraries at the cloisters in Germany, France, and Italy.

It is easily conceived how detrimental to the arts the distribution of so many invaluable antiques singly about Eng-

land, must eventually prove. By frequent changes of proprietors, they fall, perhaps, into hands which do not know their value, and are either ruined by neglect, or buried in places where no lover of the arts will seek for them. Paintings are also exposed to separation at the death of their owners; but they are in general preferred to antiques in England, and more carefully preserved. There are a considerable number of families in England who regard family galleries of paintings as unalienable property, and preserve them with pious reverence to their posterity as honourable monuments of the family attachment to the arts. Those who are acquainted with the prevailing taste of the English, may infallibly discover whether their galleries of paintings were formed in earlier or later times. In the former; for instance, the gallery of the Earl of Pembroke at Wilton,

the Earl of Exeter in Burleigh-house, and Lord Arundel at Wardour castle, may be found a considerable number of large historical paintings. On the other hand, the present prevailing taste for small and neat pictures is too conspicuous in modern English galleries, not to discover the difference. Indeed, in the present day, works of art of any considerable size are seldom received; but their number of fine cabinet-pieces, and especially landscapes, surpasses expectation. Large historical pictures seldom appear at public sales, which is easily accounted for if it be true, as I have been informed, that the duty on the importation of pictures is regulated by their size.

A foreigner has no difficulty to gain admission to the museums of the English, who are extremely polite in this respect, and the trustees of the British,

muscum are peculiarly distinguished by their urbanity. It is well known, that, on account of the great numbers, who, from motives of curiosity, desired to view that institution, certain rules were adopted with regard to admission. These are seldom departed from in favour of Englishmen, but frequently in favour of foreigners, whom the trustees seldom refuse permission to visit the library and excellent manuscripts, which the museum contains. This benefit. I experienced through the medium of the Reverend Thomas Maurice, whose efforts in poetry and Indian history have procured him great celebrity. But, although English galleries, nearly without exception, are open to foreigners, they are seldom able to view them unrestrained and uninterrupted. Individuals generally employ an old servant, mostly the housekeeper, to shew their galleries to strangers; and it

may easily be imagined, that those persons, who are very unskilful conductors, seldom know by heart the catalogue of the works; and besides, harass a stranger by their impatience. They are accustomed to hurry their countrymen through the apartments, as they seldom pause to consider any works with particular attention, but content themselves with a general superficial view. Half an hour is thought sufficient by these hasty Ciceronis to shew a stranger all the curiosities of a large house. Should he stay an hour, their impatience is extreme; but should he exceed that space of time, he may rely upon being so harassed by the effects of their ill-humour, that he prefers to renounce the indulgence. And in visiting the country-seats, where the most magnificent treasures of art lie buried, a

foreigner seldom fails to encounter similar vexations.

The museums in England are little known; some tourists certainly have undertaken to furnish the public with circumstantial accounts of their peregrinations, which are truly ridiculous. Among these gentlemen, one Mr. Warner, a clergyman at Bath, deserves particular notice, as having printed, three years ago, a most insipid description of Bath, in one large quarto volume on wove paper hot-pressed. It is highly ludicrous to see with what gravity this description of writers display their *treasures* of information gleaned from an acquaintance with some old English footmen and housekeepers. If any readers remember what I have, in a preceding chapter, said respecting the gravity of English compilers, they may easily imagine how ludicrous the gravity

of these tourists must prove, they being always excessively turgid.

The curious may, perhaps, ask with astonishment, if the want of proper and complete catalogues of the works of art dispersed throughout England, had not been felt long ago? and whether in a country in which the most trivial circumstances are carefully recorded, even to the uninteresting epitaphs in country church-yards, the great utility of an historical account of the existing museums, should be totally disregarded? But at this moment no critical or tastefully compared catalogue of any English gallery does exist. There certainly are two catalogues of the Pembroke collection, one under the title of *Ædes Pembrokianæ*; the other written by Mr. Kennedy: but their authors have displayed an ignorance and insipidity apparent even to those who

have not seen the collection. But no catalogues exist of the magnificent collections of the Dukes of Bridgewater and Devonshire, the Earls of Exeter and Warwick, Lord Arundel, and many others. It seems as if the nobility of England had omitted to furnish accounts of the treasures they possess, from no other motive than because they are not yet convinced that their nation does not take a lively interest in the arts.

It is obvious, that the English nation has not as yet displayed a public interest in the national possession of beautiful works of art; but, on the other hand, whenever opportunities have offered, they have supinely neglected that advantage. The manner in which the offer of Count Truchsess's museum was received, affords the most recent and striking instance of the apathy with which the English nation

value works of art. This nobleman possessed at Vienna one of the most magnificent galleries of paintings, which commanded the admiration of all connoisseurs. The count offered this gallery to the English nation for sixty thousand guineas, a sum by no means extravagant, if we compare the intrinsic value of the collection with others purchased at very high prices. This gallery did not consist of small cabinet-pieces, but of large master-pieces, surpassing by far, in point of numbers, the Earl of Pembroke's, which is the largest in England; the latter does not contain above three hundred, whereas the former comprises nearly one thousand.

Considering the rigid economy which the British senate observes in the application of the public money, in support of the fine arts and sciences,

the grant of sixty thousand guineas for the purchase of a gallery of paintings was not to be expected. Count Truchsess, therefore, wished to interest the opulent citizens of London in favour of his plan, and in December 1802 issued his proposals, which seemed admirably calculated to stimulate even the spirit of mercantile speculation to a public-spirited effort in behalf of the fine arts. The sum requisite for the establishment of the gallery was to be contributed in ten thousand shares at ten guineas each, part of which was to be applied towards the purchase of the collection, and the remainder in purchasing a suitable house for its reception. The property of the museum, to which the public was to have admission at a moderate price, would then be divided among the holders of shares, who might expect very handsome dividends; the receipts of the Royal Exhibition,

which lasts a month only, amounting to nearly four thousand pounds annually. The Truchsessian gallery would have become a place of resort to all accomplished foreigners at London, and it would have been a useful school to English artists, and a rendezvous to all lovers of the arts residing in London. It was further to be expected, that the price of the shares would soon rise above their original value, and that government, on becoming acquainted with the utility of such an institution, would, perhaps, secure the property to the nation. Several of the most eminent citizens of London offered to receive the money, and be answerable for its proper application. Count Truchsess established the value of his gallery by a considerable number of master-pieces, which he took over to England; and by the testimonies of all the professors at the academy of painting of Vienna, and

several other eminent amateurs, among whom were several Englishmen of high rank. The undertaking, therefore, assumed the fairest hopes of success. But the public spirit, which displays itself with such splendour in England, when a plan is to be carried into execution, by which trade may be encouraged, human misery alleviated, or national power extended, cannot, as it were, be aroused, when the interests of arts and sciences are to be promoted. Five hundred thousand pounds were subscribed in an hour in the city of London for the erection of the West India Docks; but not ten thousand pounds could be procured in that immensely opulent metropolis for the establishment of a museum, even though it held out advantages of a mercantile nature. Count Truchsess has, therefore, been obliged to relinquish his plan, and is at present disposing of his fine gallery in London.

The most magnificent collections of arts at and in the neighbourhood of London, are those at Buckingham-house, the galleries of the Duke of Bridgewater and Marquis of Lansdowne, Mr. Hope the banker, Mr. Agar, the Duke of Devonshire at Chiswick, Mrs. Aufrere at Chelsea, and that of the late Mr. Charles Townley. I have seen all these collections, with the exception of that of the Duke of Bridgewater, to which access is extremely difficult, and I shall endeavour to give some account of them; but it is far from my intention to furnish a detailed or a critical catalogue, which would require better opportunities than those I have had to view the contents of these galleries; besides, a perfect connoisseur, only, can critically estimate distinguished works of art. We may understand a book, and distinctly and correctly state its contents, without

being able to criticise it; and this is the case with works of art. Whoever has seen many master-pieces of great artists, and seriously studied them, may acquire an aptitude in discovering beauties in others, without possessing the acute observation of a true connoisseur: I say a true connoisseur; for many, who with an important air judge the most excellent monuments of art, and with much boldness criticise them, are frequently found deficient in the first elements of criticism as well as judgment.

Several English collections, of which I purpose to take a cursory view in the following pages, have never lost their possessors. The enthusiastic antiquarian Charles Townley, and the distinguished Mrs. Aufrere, died some months ago. The large gallery of Mrs. Aufrere will probably remain in the possession of her heir, Lord Yar-

borough, who is known to be a zealous amateur. But the rapid and frequent change of possessors proves extremely vexatious to amateurs. If we only look at the catalogue of galleries mentioned in the English Connoisseur, which was published thirty years ago, it will appear, that some of the most considerable collections have either been sold, as those of Messrs. Barnard and Jennings at London: others have been totally dispersed; for instance, the fine gallery of Mr. Methuen, which is now at Corsham-house near Bath. Even the royal galleries of paintings at Hampton-court, Kensington-palace, Windsor, and Buckingham-house, have suffered so much by being removed from one place to another, that not a single catalogue of them is now correct. How frequently have the cartons of Raphael been removed from one royal palace to another during the last

twenty years†. They were first at Hampton-court, whence they were removed to Buckingham-house, where they were intended for paper-hangings; thence they were carried to Windsor, thence to Frogmore, and then back again to Windsor, where they passed from one room to another, till eventually some were stationed in the castle, and others left to embellish the Queen's lodge.

Buckingham-house, which the royal family used to inhabit when in London, was embellished with the choicest works of art from Hampton-court, Windsor, and the old palace at Kensington; which may, perhaps, now be removed to Windsor, since the royal family have changed their residence to that place. The collection at Buckingham-house incontestibly contained the most valuable paintings belonging†

to his Majesty, and was the chief ornament to the interior of the palace, the rooms of which are by no means fitted up in a style of elegance equal to the houses of the opulent inhabitants in London. Very little of the furniture is sumptuous, and the greater part old fashioned, and not a single carpet to be seen in the whole house; the King considering it to be a fashion too effeminate. The drawing-room only is fitted up in modern style, and with great taste and elegance; the embroideries in this apartment are done by the royal princesses.

The following are among the most beautiful works of art which I saw at Buckingham-house:

Claude Lorrain. — Three excellent landscapes.

Vandyke.—His own portrait.

King Charles I. on horseback, and the Duke of Asperne, as large as life.

Guercino.—Three exceedingly beautiful half-length portraits, which the King some years ago received from Rome.

Barocci.—A holy family.

Spagnoletto.—Half-length portrait of a philosopher reading a book at a lamp.

Swanevelt.—A landscape representing a wild, romantic valley.

Carlo Maratti. — Several fine pictures.

Rubens.—There are several of the largest works of this artist in Buckingham-house; among which, the most distinguished represents St. Martin in the act of dividing his mantle.

Guido Reni.—Two of his largest and most astonishing works are, Andromeda, and Venus attended by the Graces.

A Titian.—Portrait of the Duke of Alba, and a picture representing Maria with the child Christ; St. Luke, and St. Ignatius, in half lengths.

Many modern pictures of native artists are put up in Buckingham-house; the walls of a whole apartment are covered with large paintings by Mr. West. Among other original pictures of known and favourite prints, is the death of General Wolfe. The cabinet

of the Queen is hung with portraits painted by Gainsborough; but I do not remember to have seen a single picture by Sir Joshua Reynolds in this or any other royal collection.

A number of valuable miniature paintings, chiefly portraits, are found here in a large glazed frame; among which is an excellent portrait of Mary Stuart.

An excellent portrait by *Tintoretto*, representing the celebrated Italian architect Palladio.

The private library of his Majesty is very voluminous, and it is affirmed, choice. The library consists of two long rooms, and a very fine rotunda, lighted from above; this is filled with books to such a degree, that they often stand three deep. Dr. Johnson ob-

tained permission from his Majesty to use this library; and he frequently passed his mornings there, when the King at times visited and conversed with him. This rotunda is unquestionably a very fine library-room: it is, however, surpassed by the magnificent library-room of the Marquis of Lansdowne at Shelbourne-house.

Shelbourne-house is one of the greatest curiosities in London; it is situated to the south of Berkeley-square. Its style of architecture is plain, but tasteful; and to judge from its exterior, it seems only to be a roomy, elegant dwelling; but on entering the hall, the mind is agreeably surprised by a degree of magnificence, which raises this mansion to the rank of a palace. Along the walls of the hall are placed antique hermes, pillars, and candelabras. Opposite the hall, at the staircase, which

is lighted from above, stands an antique colossal statue, of Diana; and beautiful works of antiquity strike the eye of the spectator on all sides in the lower part of the house. One magnificent room leads to another, and the splendid decorations of the interior, together with the surprising magnitude of the building, cannot fail to command admiration. At the end of a double suit of handsome apartments you enter a magnificent, large apartment, which contains a select collection of paintings, among which are the following excellent works by distinguished masters :

Teniers. — Three landscapes, very large.

Vernet. — Two of his largest pieces, representing a thunder-storm on the coast.

Berghem.—One of the largest and finest landscapes by this master: it represents a narrow, steep, rocky valley, through which a small river rushes with great velocity.

Nicolas Poussin.—A holy family.

Gaspar Poussin.—Two very large landscapes, representing dusky forests.

Vandyke.—A sketch, representing Morpheus in the form of a slumbering boy.

Murillos.—Two fine pictures.

Leonardo da Vinci.—One of the largest and most admirable efforts of this artist is, perhaps, his holy family.

Watteau.—A small naïve picture.

Claude Lorrain.—One of his smallest cabinet landscapes.

Rubens.—A very large altar-piece.

Carlo Maratti.—Two very fine pictures.

Among the antiques, one of the finest is placed in the large library; it represents a naked, masculine figure.

This statue stands at the entrance of the library, which is very lofty, spacious, and highly embellished. Along the walls are repositories for the books, so arranged that any book may be reached. The library contains about ten thousand volumes, and is said to be very complete in the departments of politics and modern history. This library is the usual study of the noble owner of Shelbourne-house. All that is


said of the Marquis of Landsdowne excites the idea of a truly great man, who embraces the most elevated subjects with a most accomplished mind, and who appears equally venerable as a patriot, magnanimous as a statesman, ardent and refined as a lover of the arts, and an acute and solid literary character.

The collection of antiques belonging to the Marquis of Landsdowne is certainly one of the most valuable in London: it was, however, surpassed by that of Mr. Charles Townley, whose invaluable museum was not only considered the first in the metropolis, but it was by many thought superior to the large Pembroke collection in certain respects.

That enthusiastic antiquarian, Mr. Townley, resided twenty years in Italy,

where he unceasingly collected valuable antiquities, employed people to dig for them, and lived for a long time in familiar intercourse with the celebrated Cavaceppi, who probably guided his choice when he laid the foundation of his museum, in which there are many excellent pieces from the collection of Cavaceppi. The amazing extent of this magnificent gallery surpasses all expectation. The Townleyan museum may indeed serve as a splendid proof, what enthusiasm may effect when it is attached to active zeal, and occupies the whole life of a man.

At first sight the exceeding opulence of this fine collection cannot fail to excite astonishment; and it increases on a closer observation, for beauty and perfection reign throughout. A statue of Thalia is one of the chief ornaments of the Townleyan museum.

 statue of Bacchus as a boy is in perfect preservation.

Diana.—An excellent figure as large as life.

Ariadne, or Libera.—This is perhaps the finest statue in the collection, and is one of the most beautiful in the world.

A statue of a discus-thrower, as large as life.

A small very fine statue of Hercules in bronze.

A voluptuous group of a fawn and a nymph.

A statue of a fawn.

A statue of a slumbering Cupid.

1. Fine busts are very abundant here, yet the collection of Lord Pembroke surpasses by far that of the late Mr. Townley.

CHAP. II.

MR. AGAR's Gallery of Pictures in London—Original Works of distinguished Masters—Mr. Hope's Gallery—Chelsea—The Military Hospital—Mr. William Garrard's Academy for the Education of young Seamen—Villa of Mrs. Aufrere—Her principal Pictures.

I SHALL never forget the agreeable hours I spent before I left London in the gallery of Mr. Agar, whose house resembles a temple of the arts. I shall merely select a few pictures as indicative of the distinguished masters he possesses :

An infant Jesus on the lap; the Madona, by Giovanni Bellini; Mr. Thomas More, by Holbein; a land-

scape, by Elzeimer; David and Abigail, by Rubens; a landscape, by Claude Lorrain; the discovery of Achilles by Ulysses amongst the daughters of Lycomedes, by Nicolas Poussin; a holy family, by Titian; a bust of St. Catherine, by Tintoret; a landscape, by Jacob Kuyp; another by Hobima; a small, well-finished figure of a knight on horseback, by Vandyke; a landscape by Berchem; the conversion of St. Paul, by Rubens; an open country, by Bamboccio; a portrait of Lady Malta, by Andrea del Sarto; a bust of a Magdalene, by Murilla; a Flemish family of peasants saying grace before dinner, by Teniers; a head of St. Petrus, by Guido; a holy family, by Andrea del Sarto; a large landscape, by John Both; a holy family, by Ludavico Caracci; a beautiful landscape, by Claude Lorrain; Sarah driving Ha-

gar out of her house, by Rubens; the heads of the Madona and Christ, by Correggio; a holy family, by Raphael; a small picture representing a nymph rising from the bath, by Annibale Carracci; Cupid, by Dominichino; a holy family, by Sasso Ferriato; two landscapes of middling size, by Claude Lorrain; whole lengths as large as life, by Rubens; a distant country in an autumnal fog, by Wouvérmann; a holy family, by Van der Werf; another, by Pietro di Cortona; a riding-school, by Wouvermann; a picture, by Salvator Rosa; a large landscape, by Nicolas Poussin; the Madona under a tree, with the child on her lap, by Vandyke; a landscape in the Apennine mountains, by Dominichino; a wild, sandy country, by Teniers; four beautiful landscapes, by Claude Lorrain; two small pictures, by Nicolas Pous-

sin; a famous picture, the united labours of eight great masters; a holy family, by Parmegiano; three landscapes, by Claude Lorrain; two charming pictures, by Murillos; a Magdalene, by Agostino Caracci; a small landscape, by Du Jardin; a Flemish farm-house in a meadow, by Van der Velde; a very large beautiful landscape, by Berchem; Venus supported on the sea by a dolphin, by Francesco Albani; Ixion embracing a cloud resembling Juno, by Rubens.

Mr. Hope, the famous banker of Amsterdam, is now resident at London, where he enjoys the general regard and esteem of the English. He has been fortunate enough to save his valuable gallery of pictures, of which I shall mention some original masterpieces.—John and Christ as children,

by Vandyke; a sea-side country, by Backhuysen; a large landscape, by Salvator Rosa; half-length portraits, by Parmegiano; Daphne converted into a laurel tree, by Nicolas Poussin; a Cupid, by Pietro da Cortona; a landscape of middling size, by Claude; the Madona with the child, by Alexander Veronese; the Graces, by Nicolas Poussin; a beautiful picture, by Teniers; Venus and Cupid, by Pagi; the Madona with the child, by Ludovico Caracci; a stormy sea, by Backhuysen; Mary with the child Christ on her lap, by Andrea del Sarto; a seaport, by Claude; John, by Francesco Mola; two small pictures, by Rottenhammer; Actæon and Diana, by Annibale Caracci; a landscape in Greece, by Claude; a warrior, by Giorgione; Bacchus and Venus in a sacred grove, by Francesco Albani; a very fine land-

scape, by Bolognese; a holy family, by Pietro da Cortona; the old Grecian in prison suckled by his daughter, by Rubens; Christ and the girl at the well, by Annibale Caracci; Magdalene renouncing the pleasures of the world, by Guido Reni; Mary ascending to heaven, by Vandyke; Actæon and Diana, by Francesco Albani; a holy family, by Murillos; Mary's ascension to heaven, by Correggio; the head of a Madona, by Correggio, his celebrated Danaë, one of the principal beauties of the gallery; two naked figures, by Julio Romano; two small landscapes, by Potter; Mary Magdalene, by Van der Werf; two of the finest pictures of Mieris; an old family picture, by Rembrandt; Christ and the adulteress, by Rubens; an extremely large landscape, by Titian; a landscape in autumn, by John Both; ruins of antiqui-

ties, by Van der Ulft; two small pictures, by Ostade; one of the finest pictures of Wouvermann; the inside of a large Gothic church, by Peter Neefs; a small picture, by Gerhard Dow; a landscape, by Moucheron; a small picture by Pohlenberg; Christ sleeping on ship-board in a tempest, by Rembrandt.

Many of the charming villages which encompass London are now so closely connected with it, that a stranger mistakes them for parts of the metropolis. This is particularly the case with respect to Chelsea, which has been rapidly enlarged and carefully improved during these last ten years. In a few generations hence the name of the villages so immediately in the vicinity of London will probably be entirely forgotten.

Chelsea is situated on the banks of the Thames, and adorned with several beautiful villas, which afford a most delightful view of the noble river that approaches majestically to the metropolis. The village of Chelsea reminds me of many celebrated men of former days; Shaftsbury and Swift resided there, and in the large country-house of Thomas More lived Holbein and Erasmus during their stay in England. Towards the river side, in a fine and airy situation, is the famous military hospital for invalid soldiers, built by Sir Christopher Wren. It is a very large and fine, but simple building: the interior looks cheerful and clean; the pensioners dine together in a very spacious and superb saloon, and appear to pass as happily as they can wish the remnant of their days.

There are a great number of boarding-schools at Chelsea, of which that of Mr. William Garrard, known by the name of "Ormond-house," is particularly distinguishable. Boys intended for the sea receive their first professional rudiments at this academy, and are taught both the theory and practise of all mathematical and nautical sciences.

Among the beautiful villas that adorn Chelsea, are, the seat of Lord Cremorne, and that of the late Mrs. Aufrere: the latter was a warm friend of the arts; she spent some time in Italy with her husband, where she collected a very valuable museum, of which the following claim particular notice :

A beautiful landscape of Claude Lorrain; two large landscapes, by Sal-



vator Rosa; four landscapes, by Gaspar Poussin; Christ taken from the cross; by Annibale Caracci; a bust of Mary Dolorosa as large as life, by Guido Reni; Mars and Venus, by Luca Giordano; Cupid bending a bow, by Dominichino; an old valuable picture painted on wood, by an unknown Italian master; Armida and Tancred, by Nicolas Poussin; a very fine, manly, and expressive head, by Guercino; a head of Christ as large as life, by Carlo Dolce; a head of Magdalene, by Carlo Maratti; two small pictures painted on wood, by an unknown Italian master; a Sybil, by Guido Reni; two pieces of forest scenery; a picture by Vandyke; a battle, by Salvator Rosa; the Madonna contemplating the slumbering infant Jesus, by Guido Reni; a holy family by Rottenhammer; three fine landscapes by Teniers; Venus removing a

thorn from her foot, by Paul Veronese; a pirate, by Giorgione; Saint Catharine, by Correggio; two pictures of Agostino Caracci; two of the finest pictures of Francesco Albani; a large incomparable picture of Titian, painted on wood.

CHAP. III.

PROSPECT from Highgate and Hampstead—Conversations Club—Somers-Town—Harrow on the Hill—The Duke of Devonshire's Villa at Chiswick—The Gardens at Kew—Richmond—Windsor—The Royal Palace—Cartoons of Raphael—The Royal Family—Greenwich Hospital for Invalid Seamen.

LONDON has this great advantage over most capitals, that one may readily desert the bustle of the city, and enjoy the pure delights of nature. Its environs are every where beautifully rural. A stranger should not omit to visit the villages of Hampstead and Highgate, from whence he commands a most delightful prospect of the surrounding country.

Highgate, about four miles from London, is situated on a high hill, whence a wide fertile plain, bounded by the vast metropolis, presents itself to the astonished view; the way thither leads through Islington, a fine village adjoining London. Highgate crosses Hampstead over a pleasant footpath: the latter is one of the largest and most frequently visited villages in the neighbourhood of London; the view is more picturesque and more extended than at Highgate; to the eastward you survey the beautiful counties of Essex and Kent; towards the north-west the fine eminence of Harrow on the Hill; to the south the metropolis, enveloped in smoky clouds, and skirted by a blue ridge of hills. It is pleasing to retrace the memory of Pope, Steele, Gay, Addison, and other literati, who held their Conversations Club at Hampstead.

Returning to London the road leads through Somers-Town, a new-built town, built by rich citizens with a speculative view.

Harrow on the Hill lies ten miles from London, towards the north-west, and is remarkable for a famous public school, which has produced, among other celebrated characters, Mr. Sheridan the orator.

Of all the enchanting villas in the vicinity of London, none is equal, in point of beauty and magnificence, to that of the Duke of Devonshire at Chiswick, a large village five miles distant from Hyde Park Corner. The amazing elegance of the interior dazzles the eye of a stranger, and the gallery of pictures may be ranked amongst the first in England.

Not far from Chiswick, a fine stone bridge has been erected, by Mr. Robert Tunstall, across the Thames to Kew: the royal gardens are here eternalized by the *tastelessness* of Sir William Chambers; ridiculous contrasts in the decorations and monuments shock the eye every where.

The beautiful village of Richmond is surrounded with fine country seats; it is impossible to imagine, at the entrance, the enchanting prospect that awaits you from Richmond-hill. The meandering Thames flows through a luxuriously extended valley, and is bordered by rich meadows and dark green forests. From this hill, on a fine day, the view reaches to the celebrated Castle of Windsor, towering on an eminence. The royal family inhabit the new rooms, but the state apartments

and the drawing-rooms are ancient. The great tower, in the middle of the castle, is surrounded by a rampart, ranged with cannon. Here the governor resides. In the presentation-hall are four cartoons of Raphael, painted in his best manner. On Sundays, in the afternoon, the royal family generally walk on the fine terrace of the castle, which is, at that time, crowded with spectators: as soon as the king appears, they form two rows; the band of the guard play during the whole of the promenade; the royal family walk slowly up and down, and converse with many persons of all classes; the whole scene presents a touching and solemn picture of the attachment of the people to their sovereign. The king, although far advanced in years, shews in his exterior no marks of weakness; his de-

portment is easy and free, like that of a man in the full vigour of life.

Greenwich is another village much frequented by the families of citizens; the park belonging to it is pleasant, and the magnificent hospital for invalid seamen, situated on the banks of the Thames, affords a superb prospect from the river; the neatness of its interior entirely corresponds with the beauty of its exterior. Each invalid has a little room to himself, with a bed, a table, and, generally, a small pair of drawers.

CHAP. IV.

OF the different Modes of Travelling in England—
Travelling in a Post-chaise, on Foot, and in a Mail-
coach—English Hotels—Travelling in a Stage-coach—
Their different Kinds—Opposition Coaches—Departure
from London to Bath—Prospect of that Town—
The Queen's-square—The Royal Circus—The Royal
Crescent—Somerset-place—Landsdown Crescent—
Pulteney-street—Sidney-gardens—Sources of Acquisition
to the Citizens at Bath—Physicians and Artists
at Bath—The new Pump-room—Assembly-room—
Departure from Bath.

HOWEVER interesting the country, foreigners rarely visit the interior of England, many of them being deterred from the pursuit by the expence of the undertaking, which they imagine to be greater than in other countries. Experience, however, has taught me, that this idea is erroneous; and I could

easily prove, that Germany, compared to England; will give to the latter every advantage in point of convenience, as well as in point of expence.

Post-chaises are only used by the opulent among the English, or by men of business who have missed the mail-coach, and whose affairs are too pressing to admit of delay. This way of travelling is very expensive; for besides the chaise hire, which is very high, there are the turnpikes to pay, and those so frequent, that we may reckon on that pleasure every two miles and a half upon an average.

England, from the excellent state of its roads, and the fine commodious inns which are to be met with even in villages, is particularly calculated for the convenience of journies on foot;

but these are still as uncommon as at the time when Moritz undertook his toilsome wanderings in Derbyshire. Some Englishmen, however, have made the tour of the country on foot, and amongst others the Reverend Mr. Warner of Bath; but these gentlemen take care not to record the derision they met with from other travellers, nor the sour looks with which they were received by the landlords of the different inns.

There is no way of travelling more convenient, for men in business, than by the mail-coach. This conveyance unites a most surprising expedition to the greatest of all possible comfort and reasonable expence.

The English mail-coaches are calculated to travel seven miles English (one

mile and two-fifths German) an hour, including the time which is lost by the change of horses, breakfast, dinner, and supper. The travellers are allowed twenty minutes for breakfast and supper, and twenty-five minutes for dinner. To the guards of the mail-coaches are given in London a mounted watch, which is opened by the agents at the end of their journey, in order to ascertain whether they arrive within the given minute, or whether they have been neglectful in duty.

The passengers of the mail-coaches always consist of respectable persons. As they know at the inns the arrival of the mail-coaches to the very minute, every thing is always ready, host and hostess hurry to meet the passenger, and conduct him to a comfortable room, where, in a twinkling, breakfast,

dinner, or supper, is served. The mail-coaches frequent the very best inns, where the traveller is entertained in the best and most reasonable manner.

It is generally acknowledged by all travellers in England, that they have been most agreeably surprised with the elegance of the inns throughout the kingdom. The sleeping rooms and beds are kept uncommonly neat: it is true, beds are that sort of luxury among the English which are always carefully attended to.

The inn-keepers here are not less polite and attentive than those in France. They do not pay their waiters, whose entire income consists in what they receive from the guests: this, however, by the great flow of persons, amounts to so considerable a sum, that

in the course of eight or ten years they lay by a capital sufficient to enable them to choose a mode of life more independent.

The English landlords do not understand those long systematical bills of fare which are offered to you by a French restaurateur, as at the first hotels in London the permanent bill of fare never contains much more than the choice of a dozen dishes, of which very few are calculated to pamper a refined palate. But any traveller of sober habits will soon perceive that some few English dishes, as, for example, beef-stakes, are so exquisitely served, that one may repeatedly choose them without becoming tired.

The number of stage-coaches which perpetually traverse the roads of Eng-

land is almost incredible, and so far from being empty they are generally overloaded. It augments every day in the shape of opposition coaches, as they call them, which often prove ruinous to the proprietors; as they sometimes carry their resentment to such a pitch as to convey passengers for a mere trifle, and even for nothing, without regarding the considerable loss they sustain on such occasions, in order to smother the undertaking of a rival in its very birth. The travelling in these kind of vehicles is very expeditious, but the company is not select; the very reduced prices generally inviting the vulgar classes to travel by the opposition coaches.

The form and size of these stage-coaches are various: they usually have seats for six people; some only for four,

and others in form of a cylinder, are called long-coaches; some have seats on the outside, some have not. The smaller the number of passengers the more convenient for those that use the coach.

My first journey into the interior was to Bath, and was not very pleasant, on account of the coach being too full. I was, however, soon reconciled to the squeezing and tossings I had undergone, at beholding the pleasant valley that embosoms the city of Bath; the river Avon steals through it, and glides along the town. The Old Town is in the valley, the New Town is built on the ascent of hills. The stranger finds himself singularly taken by surprise to find Bath built almost throughout of massive stone, whereas

in most of the towns in England, even their largest buildings are raised with brick. This massive stone, however, offers an uncommon solidity rather in appearance than in reality, as it is nothing more than a soft kind of limestone, which is easily shaped to any form by the means of a saw or an ax; it hardens when exposed to the air, but decays too soon, and falls to dust: the pits that furnish it are near the town.

Bath, upon the whole, is a very fine city, and offers a magnificent *coup d'œil* when viewed from the rising grounds on the opposite shore of the Avon; its elevated squares, resembling great palaces gradually projecting one above another, contend, as it were, for sovereign sway.

The many large and open squares this town encloses occupy an uncommon extent of ground; it, therefore, appears doubly large from the number of its inhabitants. The dazzling white of the stone-work gives to the New Town a very neat appearance; but the Old Town, though built with the same kind of stone, has become, from length of time, almost black by smoke and fog, and presents a most gloomy aspect. This part of Bath contains a number of irregular streets, and as many oblique corners; indeed, the structure of the improved squares is wanting in simplicity and size.

Queen's-square, for instance, is very pleasantly situated, and occupies a considerable space of ground; but from the low Corinthian columns which decorate its buildings, together with the

small windows and the shockingly ill-shaped obelisk which stands in the centre, all idea of elegance is removed. The Royal Circus, not far from it, may be looked upon as a most striking representation of the ridiculous taste of the architect. After having passed, however, through a remarkably fine street, called Brock-street, you come to a somewhat elevated spot, and enjoy a most agreeable prospect; I mean from the Royal Crescent, opposite to which the most beautiful meadows adorn the scene, and extend themselves along the descending hill, into a vale where the Avong lides in slow and rippling murmurs, and leaves to the gratified eye a shore of woodland hills; while the spectator, in directing it to the right, enjoys a most charming prospect along the pleasant road to Bristol, and to the left falls on the lower town of Bath.

These agreeable meadows form the general rendezvous of the *beau monde* at Bath for their evening walks; and the sight of the gay throng, added to the rural beauty of the place, is certainly a treat of the most exquisite kind I can remember ever to have enjoyed.

A little above the Royal Crescent is St. James's-square, very large, and containing very neat buildings; and higher up is Landsdown Crescent, which is formed by a row of large and stately houses, which command a most extensive view over the whole valley. On about the same level is Somerset-place and Camden-place; these buildings are likewise magnificent, and inhabited only by very opulent families.

Pulteney-street is a most superb street, and opens at one end into Sid-

ney-place, which contains the Sidney-gardens, or the Bath Vauxhall. The building at the entrance to Sidney-gardens is far more considerable than that of the Vauxhall near London. The interior is laid out with much elegance. The ball-room, the gaming (card) room, and the dining and supper-rooms are furnished with infinite taste. The gardens are pleasant, with a large semi-circle of bowers, similar to those at Vauxhall; but the pavilion and large rotundas, with which the latter is adorned, are not to be found in the Sidney-gardens. The Avon Channel passes through the grounds; over which two neat iron bridges conduct the visitor along very pleasant meadows. Sidney gardens are illuminated from time to time; the illumination I saw was tasteful, but not so brilliant as at Vauxhall; but the display of crowd and

gaiety did not seem to be inferior to the London assembly. That rage for amusements, that extravagance in enjoyments of all sorts, which are the general characteristic among the visitors of hot wells and sea-shores, do not meet with an exception. Bath is looked upon as the English academy for refined taste and *bon ton*. Young ladies generally resort to Bath to begin the study of the manners of the *beau monde*. The brilliant period of fashionable association at Bath is the winter season, when the *élégantes* and *beaus* from all parts of the kingdom flow to this favourite rendezvous, which then becomes the residence of the richest families of England, and affords a lucrative harvest to its citizens.

Bath does not boast any flourishing branches of commerce; very likely on

account of its being so dear a place for the establishment of manufactories, and its otherwise disadvantageous position for commerce. Its only commerce is with Bristol, a port to which Bath communicates by the Avon, which conveys craft of one hundred and twenty tons burthen.

Bath is a perfect mine for the English physicians, and no less a number of professional men were calculated in 1802 than fifty, without reckoning those who, by forbidden means, know how to rank themselves among the faculty.

Bath having been for a considerable time the most brilliant rendezvous with the English fashionable world, luxury has reached a certain height of splendor and refinement peculiarly its own; yet

Bath has never afforded any asylum to the arts and sciences. A *certain* kind of artists, however, who *conveniently* assist despairing lovers, are very numerous, and miniature painters in abundance fill the city.

There are four public baths; the largest is situated just behind the new pump-room, the windows of which open over the bath called the King's-bath, in honour of the dwarf King Bladud, who is supposed to have discovered the hot well, and of whom a most monstrous statue guards the bath.

At the public-rooms, even in the forenoon, parties of gentlemen sit down to cards; but the ladies do not make their appearance till evening. The assembly-rooms are appropriated to dancing four times a week, at other

times to card parties and concerts. During the fine weather the Sidney-gardens are much frequented. Sunday at Bath is like Sunday every where else in England. No music, no dancing, no cards, are suffered; and the assembly-rooms open merely for promenade and conversation.

The assembly-rooms are certainly very brilliant and pleasing to the stranger, but he seeks in vain for that ease of society which gives him an opportunity of forming interesting connections; on the contrary, every one seems rather to study a more than usual formality. There are some large coffee-houses, which are very neat; still the stranger has only to admire the ornaments and gildings, while he can form no idea of their visitors, each of them secreting himself in a *cell* of his own.

Those who mix with a large circle of acquaintance may enjoy a degree of pleasure peculiar to themselves, but the stranger experiences only a general reserve, which, as it were, isolates him in the middle of a crowd.

Every morning in the week a four-seated coach sets off from the White Hart inn at Bath to Salisbury, and passes through a little town situated half way from Bath, whence I directed my course on a fine autumnal morning.

CHAP. V.

ROAD from Bath to Warminster—Warminster—The Park at Longleat—Salisbury—The Cathedral—Old Sarum—Salisbury-plain—Stonehenge—Fonthill—Wardour-castle—Wilton-house—The celebrated Museum of the Earl of Pembroke—Antiquities—Entrance into Bristol—Temple-street—The Mob at Bristol—Cause why the Poor Rates are smaller at Bristol than in other English Towns—The Harbour of Bristol—The Police of that City—The Grammar-school—Favourable Situation of the Town for Commerce—Its flourishing State—Character of the Inhabitants—Want of public Places—The Theatre—The Bristol Churches—The Banks—The Tradesmen at Bristol—Clifton.

THE road from Bath to Warminster is very pleasant; it runs for a considerable way along a rising ground, which offers to the right a most in-

viting prospect of clustered vallies; while to the left the eye wanders over a chain of hills well clothed with wood.

The morning after my arrival at Warminster I went on foot to Long-leat, the magnificent seat of the Marquis of Bath; it is at four miles distance, and I found the road very sandy and unpleasant. Here a foreigner has a better opportunity than any where else to form a proper idea of English gardening; the great artist, Brown, is the author of the judicious and fine dispositions which distinguish Long-leat-park.

The same coach that brought me from Bath to Warminster carried me the next day to Salisbury, a town situated in a spacious vale, which, from

its locality and magnificent cathedral, appears at a distance much larger than it really is*. Several small rivers meet here, as the Bourne, the Wilch, and the Avon; the two latter of which, however, when united, are not considerable enough to be navigable.

After leaving Salisbury, the road towards the north offers a dreary, unpleasant, flat, and uninhabited country, upon which, at the distance of about a mile and a half, *Old Sarum* is situated. The flatness of the country is favourable to the view of the ruins of its castle, which form the highest elevation of the plain, and are therefore seen

* This cathedral is one of the finest monuments of Gothic architecture: it has been described by so many travellers, that I shall not be diffuse. The interior of the building has received these late years some very considerable improvements.

from a considerable distance. This large track of uncultivated land is called Salisbury-plain, which extends itself for about forty miles in length, and furnishes pasturage to about one million of sheep. A very celebrated monument of British antiquity must not be forgotten, I mean Stonehenge, about ten miles from Salisbury.

Near Fonthill, the country seat of Mr. Beckford, the richest individual in England, our coach stopped for some time: we afterwards drove through the park towards Wardour-castle, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Norfolk, which is four miles distant.

Upon my return to Salisbury, I visited Wilton-house, three miles distant, which contains the inestimable museum of the Earl of Pembroke, the

richness of which is most uncommon, and surpasses every thing the most sanguine expectation could imagine. The picture-gallery contains no less than about three hundred pieces of the first masters; antiques; about seventy statues; fifty-eight bass-reliefs; and one hundred and fifty-two busts: and there is besides a large cabinet, which contains old gems and pieces of antique money without number, not forgetting about a thousand sketches of drawings by the first masters. The collection of busts seems to me the most valuable of the museum, for their number, as well as their beauty, surpass by far, not only a similar collection at the museum at Paris, but perhaps those of most other celebrated galleries.

Approaching towards Bristol from Bath, the dreary, melancholy appear-

ance around *ennuis* the traveller. This gloom arises from the number of glass-houses and sugar refineries that immediately border the town, which is, as it were, lost in the columns of smoke that emanate from these fabrics, and salute the advancing stranger, not very pleasantly, as often as the wind drives them downwards. Every one, therefore, feels impatient to get into a clearer atmosphere, in order to forget as soon as possible the first disagreeable impression. The brilliancy and bustle of a rich commercial town is, however, much destroyed by the passage through Temple-street, which offends the eye extremely. This abominable street is more than half a mile long, and from its narrowness and uncleanness, it makes the imagination resort to the most obscure times of the middle age.

The mass of the mob in Bristol seems to be in proportion more considerable than in London, but, comparatively speaking, of the extent and population of this town and the metropolis, the number of those poor, which are in want of public sustenance, and to whom it is never refused, is here almost one-half less considerable than in London; yet the poor rates are three times less than in Salisbury. The cause of this favourable effect seems to me to take its origin partly in an almost total absence of small manufactories, which every where contribute to augment the number of beggars, on account of their being exposed to sudden changes that do not affect more considerable establishments, and partly in the nature of the manufactories, Bristol containing very few of those most liable to the caprices of

fashion: for instance, the manufactories for fine steel ware at Salisbury, and those for printed cottons at Leeds, Manchester, and other places, all of which offer to the workmen a very precarious existence; and often, when they seem to have attained the most flourishing state, they are most exposed to a sudden fall. The manufactories of Bristol, for centuries past, consist of malt-houses, sugar-refineries, glass-houses, distil-houses for brandy and other spirits, and considerable breweries; which are carried on without interruption by means of great capitals, and procure to numbers among the lower classes of people an uninterrupted employment.

The country round Bristol is extremely fertile, and provisions are much cheaper than in any other part of the

kingdom. The advantages arising from the coal-pits of the neighbourhood are very considerable, as the expence of firing in many parts of England is among the heaviest burdens poor families have to contend with, and often proves far more destructive than even the dearness of bread, by reducing objects of poverty and misery to seek refuge in begging; while at Bristol the very reduced prices of coals allow the poorest families to enjoy a comfortable fireside. Another source for employ to this class of people is presented to them by the large port of Bristol, which occupies an astonishing number of hands.

The long quays of this port forming, as it were, an extensive arch, two quarters of the town are thereby encircled; and this close connexion of

port and town causes no part of Bristol to resemble the more modern quarters of London. Here every one seems to crowd towards the port, from which the multitude strike off into the different quarters of the town; thus most of the streets resemble Thames-street in London, and the eye meets every where, mingling with the well-dressed inhabitants, certain *outré* figures, whose amphibious nature give them a peculiar character. Sailors of all colours and nations are constantly strolling about the streets, not forgetting every moment to amuse the passengers with what they call FUN!

The port of Bristol is one of the finest sights a stranger can enjoy, entering from the bridge upon the quay; here he beholds a forest of masts which, in form of an arch, crests the town.

Along the quay is a row of neatly-built houses; but however well peopled, active, and lively, the principal quarters of this town are, the suburbs northward, as well as southward, appear so uninhabited and desert, that one is apt to imagine them the ruins of a decayed colony.

The police of this great town seems not to be superior to that of London, and in many cases still more negligent. It is not therefore to be wondered at, if these quarters so inhabited should abound in filth; but it is rather more surprising, that the genteel parts of the town is equally notorious for a want of cleanliness so uncommon in England. Indeed many of the principal streets are deprived of that common ornament, a pavement. The lighting is also much neglected; that,

however, is the case in many of the provincial towns, but probably nowhere so striking as at Bristol; notwithstanding that city is, of all others, the least calculated to dispense with a sufficient number of well-lighted lamps, on account of the number of small angular streets which intersect it, and in the dark become very unsafe.

This populous town cannot boast any well-formed institution for the education of youth; for if we except a few charity-schools, and two hedge-schools with only one master, who is poorly provided for, there is but one, called the Grammar-school, deserving any notice: so that an European town, with one hundred thousand inhabitants, possesses but one school, and that conducted by two masters only, which certainly is a political wonder; but

such is the fact. To this glaring defect as to the claims of posterity, an abundance of institutions to receive the poor and infirm offer a most remarkable contrast, for no less than thirty-two of the latter are to be found here.

The position of Bristol is particularly advantageous to commerce, so much so, that even the shock sustained in the last century, when England was separated from the provinces of North America, was not able to injure its consequence. This port was formerly the emporium for all the produce and merchandize from Wales and Ireland; and the advantages arising to it from the West India trade, had enabled it to vie, in that branch, even with the metropolis. Liverpool has lately obtained some of its most con-

siderable branches of trade with the West Indies and Ireland, and shares in the profits of the trade with North Wales: South Wales, however, remains stationary; but the Bristol manufactories are certainly in a flourishing state, and its navigation is still so considerable, that the merchants here are owners of no less than three hundred trading vessels, which are almost continually at sea, without mentioning the great number of smaller craft which are employed on the Avon and Wye.

Luxury has not yet taken very deep root among the mercantile world of Bristol, who have hitherto distinguished themselves by the prudence with which they have conducted their concerns; in choosing the most secure ways in preference to the alluring path of brilliant but hazardous speculation;

a circumstance to which they are indebted for their great and unshaken credit, as well as the accumulation of so considerable a capital, that their town is still considered, after Liverpool, the richest provincial town of England.

The English look upon the inhabitants of Bath and Bristol as offering the two extremes of character; the one, well bred, polite, and superficial; the other, honest, rough, and solid, like John Bull. Public amusements are perhaps, for this very reason, almost entirely neglected; and the few which Bristol can boast, are far more wretchedly directed than those in any other commercial town in Europe. It possesses only one very small theatre, and that not well supported. The house contains only two rows of boxes, each

holding about twelve persons, a small gallery, and a pit of the same proportion : it is opened only three times a week, and then very thinly attended. There is not one sociable club in this large town, if I may credit the assertion of one of its inhabitants. For concerts and balls in winter, a small suite of rooms in a neat house in Prince's-street, are thrown open. Thus limited are the public amusements of a town containing one hundred thousand inhabitants. Coffee-houses are few in number, and still more gloomy and melancholy than in London.

Churches are here more generally frequented than in any other part of England ; their number is astonishing, and increase every year by the building of new chapels. The sect of Methodists has extended itself in a for-

maidable manner; and its votaries mostly dwell in Temple-street, Horse-fair, St. James's-back and church-yard: these, however, are among the highest class of Bristol merchants.

The first-rate London merchants seldom attend the exchange, but it is not so with the Bristol merchant, the exchange being the place of meeting for all men of business.

There are no less than seven banks, the meaning of which an uninformed stranger may mistake for there being seven bankers; and is not a little surprised when he understands the number of the latter to amount to more than thirty, who, in different parties, have formed those banks, each of which issue printed notes. His astonishment will rise still higher at finding, in the smaller

English towns, some of them containing hardly five thousand inhabitants, one, two, and even more of these banks, every one of them manufacturing their own paper money.

Those of the provincial banks that have gone beyond their limits, interrupt, in a very serious manner, the trade of the shopkeepers in the different towns, by withdrawing the circulation of ready money; hence the frequent complaint of tradesmen about the scarcity of coin. As often, therefore, as we meet with towns where this class of tradespeople do not shew this kind of embarrassment, we may assert with certainty, that the due proportion between specie and paper has not yet been much encroached upon among them. As it is, for instance, the case with Bristol, where the tradesman

seems to carry on his business with uninterrupted success, and wears the appearance of unclouded prosperity. Their magnificent and rich shops are no where to be equalled, except in the metropolis; their brilliancy, together with their ornaments without number, give cheerfulness to streets which otherwise would be melancholy to an excess.

Literature and the fine arts in few great towns are so entirely forgotten and deserted as at Bristol; here the fine arts have not even met with that common hospitality, luxury and riches almost universally, prepare for them. Notwithstanding the number of rich inhabitants, there is not one who ever thought it worth the expence to form a collection, a cabinet, or a gallery. As to monuments of the arts,

they are no more to be met with than artists.

The cathedral of Bristol is a masterpiece; the building is executed in the most perfect style of Gothic architecture. The chancel presenting lofty and elegant pillars, is particularly magnificent; but here we have an instance of the present want of taste among the inhabitants, which shews itself in the most ridiculous manner possible, as their very fine pillars have been painted yellow.

The state of the booksellers at Bristol shews very plainly how little the inhabitants care about literature: the former reckoning less than any other tradesman upon the sale of their books, they endeavour to reap their chief profit upon the sale of pens, paper, sealing

wax, pencils, &c.; so that their book-selling is a mere paper trade. Their stock in books is also very inconsiderable, and they never publish books themselves.

The country round Bristol unites many natural attractions with romantic grandeur; a number of fine valleys surround the town; among others, one intersected with rocks, through which the river Avon rushes with great rapidity, and particularly distinguishes itself.

If you ascend the rock from the north-west side you are agreeably surprised with the view of a charming town, which appears to occupy a considerable piece of ground. It is, in truth, but a village, I mean Clifton; which, however, forms a considerable

addition to Bristol, with which it is united. It is built in the same style as the modern part of Bath, and of the same kind of materials; it contains magnificent streets, long circular rows of houses, neat squares, and pleasant villas, all of which, surrounded by charming little gardens, render it one of the prettiest spots in the kingdom. Here the *beau monde* of Bristol emigrate from the heavy atmosphere of smoke and fog which continually envelope the city; and since I have seen this enchanted spot, I no longer wonder at their having neither park nor Vauxhall, nor any public walks, where the *élégantes* of both sexes may assemble. From the height of Clifton the most beautiful romantic scenery lays open before the wandering eye, and makes you forget the attraction of the most magnificent gardens, which are but the production of art.

CHAP. VI.

DEPARTURE from Bristol to Birmingham—Prospect of that Town—Its Population—Causes of its present Decay—Advantages of its Situation and Constitution—The Hospital—Vauxhall—The Shops at Birmingham—Tour from Birmingham to Warwick—The Town—The Castle of the Earl of Warwick—Departure from Birmingham to Shrewsbury—Mr. Boulton's Villa—Prospect and Situation of Shrewsbury—Its Traffic with North Wales—A Fair-day at Shrewsbury—The Hospital—Arrival at Llangollen—Contrasts of England and Wales—The Ruins of the Castle Dinas Bram—The Abbey at Valle Crucis—Corwen—Llanrwst—The Valley of Rocks near Capel Cerrig—Rhaidr-y-Wenol—Conway—Penmanmawr—Anglesea—Holyhead—The Welch People.

HAVING gratified my curiosity in seeing every thing remarkable at Bristol and in its neighbourhood, I set out in a stage-coach for Birmingham.

This latter town offers, from all sides, to the approaching traveller large piles of buildings intermixed with numberless insignificant houses, which are mostly inhabited by the common labourers of manufactories. Columns of smoke ascend from a hundred places at once; the noise of the work-shops form one perpetual discord; and wherever the eye is directed it beholds industry and activity. The perspective of the town itself is a very long line, over which a few church steeples peep forth, devoid of picturesque beauty: we may, indeed, say the same of the interior.

The houses of this town, with the exception of a few, are built with brick, and have a far more gloomy appearance than any where else. There are no public buildings distinguishable

for the elegance of their structure, except the play-house, which has a pretty *façade*. The streets run up and down on account of the uneven ground the town is built upon; they are badly paved, and that with square stones, as they generally are in other towns, if we except a few fine streets, as for instance, New-street, Charles-street, and Newhall-street; the pleasing appearance of which offers a striking contrast with the other parts of the town: these are the only streets which are well lighted at night; the others displaying but a few dim lamps, or none at all.

After having traversed Birmingham in different directions, its size appeared to me so surprisingly considerable, that I expected it to contain a number of inhabitants infinitely greater than that which was given out upon public in-

spection in 1861; according to which, this large town, with its smaller suburbs, cannot boast of more than 69,384 inhabitants.

During the last war, while many of the English towns rose to a flourishing state, Birmingham was distracted with intestine disturbances. The cause of this is, that as its pre-eminence among the English manufacturing towns was chiefly attributable to its commerce with France and Spain, every hostile interruption, therefore, from those countries could not fail, in a great measure, to impede the progress of its manufactories, if not shake them to the very foundation.

France was almost wholly furnished with Birmingham steel-ware, on account of its incapacity in this branch of

manufacture. The French government in vain strove, by suppressing the importation of these articles, to give encouragement to native artisans; but pressing wants opened and facilitated at all times the way to a contraband trade. In the treaty of commerce between England and France, the latter, in some measure, acknowledges this inferiority. The English nation, by means of its large capitals, is, it is well known, in its concerns with foreign countries, generally the creditor: as often, therefore, as an interruption takes place, the greater part of the disadvantage affects its members. Thus every breaking out of a new war with France or Spain, has, generally, been the signal for many great bankruptcies at Birmingham. The last war, in particular, from its long duration, has been certainly destructive to this town. But another

great national evil, dearness and scarcity of bread, has affected it more seriously than other towns in the kingdom. There being, besides several large manufactories, an immense number of smaller ones, part of which are directed by some of the most skilful workmen, who after having got possession of a small capital, by means of their personal industry, or credit, or some fortunate event, strive to procure themselves an independent business. A sudden scarcity and dearness of provision has a most melancholy effect upon the latter, many of whom are destroyed in their first outset. Evils of this sort cause naturally an increase of workmen's wages; these little fabrics are thereby placed in the unfortunate predicament, either to augment the price of their articles, or to sell them with loss; either of which is equally

disastrous, and hastens their ruin : while the large manufactories, being possessed of more considerable capitals, are enabled to combat with the scarcity of the times longer and more effectually, as has been the case during the last scarcity, when many of the finest of these little fabrics were totally ruined.

When we consider what Birmingham, for many successive years, has suffered from war and scarcity, while several other towns, as for example, Sheffield, Newcastle, Wolverhampton, and Walsall, have embarked in its various branches of manufacture with the greatest success ; and at Dublin, several large manufactories have been established, the produce of which has since supplanted the Birmingham wares in Ireland ; we must naturally feel asto-

nished at the degree of prosperity this town continues to enjoy. I think, however, that this may be accounted for, partly by its position, and partly by its free constitution.

Birmingham is situated in about the centre of the circle which is formed by the great commercial towns of England, with which it is most intimately connected from north to south, and from east to west, by means of its canals, that joins the Severn, the Trent, and the Grand Junction Canal. The conveyance of coals from the Wednesbury pits are, by these canals, rendered very easy. This favourable position allows the manufacturers to finish their articles at more reduced prices than they could do in the other manufacturing towns, and for that reason their market is more ready. On

the other hand, the constitution of this town has no trifling share in forming the basis of its flourishing state, as well as supporting it for so many successive years. This constitution does not at all resemble the mode of government general throughout England : there are no corporation, no aldermen, no mayor, no sheriffs, and no common council ; the whole government is vested in five magistrates, a high and a low bailiff, and a few police officers.

There is not the least restraint imposed on any trade ; every one may choose what he likes best to pursue, and is at liberty to push his fortune to the utmost of his power : foreigners have an equal right with the natives ; as much facility to settle, and whenever they please, to withdraw with any property that they may thus have ac-

quired by dint of industry. Birmingham has therefore ever been looked upon as an asylum open to industrious artists, and good workmen of all trades, where they may exert their activity with full entire freedom according to their means, upon a large or smaller plan; fully persuaded, that any one who distinguishes himself would find an easy credit and support: hence the continual introduction of new manufacturers, while most of those who have grown rich in trade depart. The object of all is to retire from successful labour into that happy state of independence, which is the grand prerogative of every Englishman, and cheers him to patience, to fatigue, and industry.

The helpless poor are not forgotten in Birmingham, there being very libe-

ral institutions, where they are well taken care of; among others, a large hospital, one of the finest I have ever seen, is chiefly supported by voluntary contributions, aided by the occasional produce of concerts, together with one night's benefit at the theatre, and a certain subscription, all of which produced in the year, 1802, no less a sum than three thousand pounds sterling.

The spirit of Methodism has infected most of the large workshops at Birmingham: its warmest advocates, however, are to be found among those who have to struggle with the most hard and troublesome kind of work. Their number increases visibly, and in the space of the last twenty years the Methodists have erected three new large chapels at Birmingham.

The theatre is apparently the only place where the *beau monde* of Birmingham has any opportunity to shew themselves, there being no proper place of rendezvous for the higher class of people. The only public walk is St. Philip's church-yard, where I never met a soul: and as to the Birmingham Vauxhall and Spring-gardens (some smaller tea-gardens not being worth mentioning), they are only visited by the middling class of citizens; none of the higher rank are ever to be met there.

If the liberal arts are neglected at Birmingham, the mechanical arts are, on the other side, as warmly patronized, and flourish in an eminent degree. A foreigner, although he may have admired the elegantly arranged shops at London, will be quite dazzled by the

astonishing lustre of the Birmingham exhibitions in all their varied fabrics, particularly those of steel ware. There are several at Birmingham, which, in point of riches, size, and elegance, surpass the first in the capital. Not less rich and brilliant are the public displays of plated goods.

In proportion as this grandeur in the Birmingham ware-rooms astonishes a stranger, so is he surprised at the cheapness of the articles, which are lower by a third, or even by one-half, than at London. Besides, a great variety of new-invented articles are always to be met with here, long before they are known in the metropolis; for it seems that the artisans at Birmingham endeavour to secure the profits of the first sale. A survey of the different branches of business at Birmingham

would be extremely interesting: a barren register, containing the names of the several manufacturers, may be found in the Birmingham Directory; and the annual amount of the industry of that town, which even now is computed at four millions of sterling money, is no longer a secret. It might not have been difficult formerly to an attentive observer, at a free admittance to the manufactories at Birmingham, to get acquainted with the resources and the chief branches of business of this great manufacturing town, and to discover their connections between each other, their mutual influence, their proportion to similar efforts of industry abroad, and the influence of the English wholesale trade on the rise, increase, and perfection, in which they flourish. But this is impossible under existing circumstances, for admittance

to the manufactories is no longer open to strangers, as it used to be some few years back. In the summer of 1802, the several proprietors at Birmingham published in all the London newspapers, that in consequence of the great disadvantage which they had experienced from the free admittance granted to strangers, they found themselves obliged to refuse it in future, not only to all foreigners, but even to their fellow-citizens, without exception. They mentioned, at the same time, that this determination, urged by necessity, was the result of a general resolution at Birmingham, and that no exception would be made in favour of any person. This declaration of the proprietors of the Birmingham fabrics, amongst whom was the worthy Mr. Boulton, was soon followed by similar ones, published by the proprietors of the

manufactories at Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow, and other manufacturing towns. All who knew how much the free admission to these places had been abused, cannot disapprove the above measure; on the contrary, it is surprising that they did not sooner adopt it.

From Birmingham I went to Warwick, twenty-two miles distant. Warwick is a small but neat town; the streets are spacious and the houses generally well built. The town is founded on a rock, out of which the streets have been cut: it is a very old place, but has never raised itself to a very flourishing state, the cause of which I assign to the vicinity of Coventry. The river Avon passes close by the town, and on a great rock, forty feet high, which forms its banks on one

side, stands the ancient beautiful castle of the Earl of Warwick; it is a superb Gothic building of the tenth century, and quite uninjured by time. The circumference of the castle is very extensive, and the construction remarkably strong. I thought I was entering a fortress when I approached the high-vaulted gate, which leads to the outer court of the castle. In the hall are suspended the armoury of the old Earls of Warwick. The spacious court-yard is bounded on one side by a high wall with three large Gothic watch-towers, girded with ivy; and on the other the immense Gothic castle, with its towers and balconies, and strong walls covered with green. The interior of the castle is decorated in a princely style; all the apartments are ornamented with exquisite masterpieces of great artists. The works of

the celebrated Vandyke, Rubens, and Rembrandt, are profusely displayed. Vandyke devoted his talents in England, particularly to the three noble families of Arundel, Pembroke, and Warwick; and if all the works of that artist, from Wilton-house, Wardour, and Warwick, were to be collected together, they would form a gallery in themselves.

After my return to Birmingham, I set off for Shrewsbury, only sixty miles distant. The road passes near to Mr. Boulton's grand manufactory. The building is erected over a canal; its magnitude is enormous, and resembles a small town; it employs nearly one thousand people. On one side of the fabric, on an eminence, is the charming villa of Mr. Boulton; the prospect from thence is free and extensive, and

embraces the whole vast scene of industry which the country around represents ; for on all sides large manufactories rise, as it were, out of dark clouds of smoke, and the country itself appears like an immense square in an enormous manufacturing town.

The way to Shrewsbury leads over a stone bridge erected across the Severn ; the town is situated on a high hill, which is surrounded by the Severn, in a semicircle. Beautiful meadows and a row of fine hills compose the opposite banks of that river. Shrewsbury is without any squares ; there are several new and regularly built streets, but they are badly paved, and as badly lighted : notwithstanding this, Shrewsbury has a much more cheerful appearance than many large and well-built English country towns : it has

some very fine shops, is populous for its size, and its inhabitants seem wealthy; the number of the latter is nearly 9000. There are neither fabrics nor manufactories in this town, nor is it distinguished by any particular branch of business: the retail trade is carried on here with success, for the farmers and proprietors of estates in North Wales frequent the fairs of Shrewsbury, which take place every Thursday: on these days the town is filled with people, and they afford a fine opportunity to a stranger to observe the lively character of the Welch. Banquets, balls, concerts, and plays, enliven the social entertainments at Shrewsbury: although the town is small, yet the *ton* in society is as free and refined as that at Bath and other elegant places of resort for the English *beau-monde*. Independently of

the fairs, Shrewsbury is otherwise much more lively than most other small provincial towns; it boasts a good number of very dashing equipages, and the narrow streets are rendered cheerful by the throng of well-dressed people.

The sick and poor are excellently well provided for in the hospital at Shrewsbury, which is entirely supported by voluntary annual contributions, amounting generally to several thousand pounds. This institution is, even in England, distinguished for the liberality with which it is conducted. Not far from the hospital an excellent prison has been built, upon the philanthropic Howard's plan, at the expence of the county; it is divided into several wards, according to the different classes of the criminals: the

whole arrangement of the interior deserves the highest commendation, and is a fine monument of the liberal spirit of its founders.

I left Shrewsbury in a stage-coach for Llangollen; the latter is a small, dirty town, and is situated on the river Dee, in a beautiful valley. Towards the north-east is a long row of bare mountains, consisting of limestones, of which the inhabitants of Llangollen construct their houses. A traveller, who enters North Wales from this side, will observe with surprise the singular contrast of exterior cultivation, which, after so long an union, still exists in a very striking manner between the Welch and the English people. The wide, clean streets, the fine buildings, the splendid shops, the well-dressed people, the

perpetual activity, which in almost all parts of England, not only in towns, but even in villages, attract the attention of a stranger—all these pleasing objects disappear on his entering North Wales. Instead of travelling in another province of the same country, he will find himself amongst a strange nation, which by its language, appearance, customs, and manners, very materially distinguishes itself from the English. This, however, implies only the lower order of the people in North Wales; the higher classes differ from those in England in nothing but their superior hospitality: but it is undeniable, that the common order of people, compared with that in England, is much inferior to the latter in point of cultivation.

Llangollen is wholly surrounded by high mountains, from the top of which the most delightful views unfold themselves in the neighbouring vallies. I ascended the highest of them, which contains the ruins of a very ancient castle of the Welch princes, called Castell Dinas Bran: a footpath leads over meadows to the middle of the mountain, where it rises in a steep, conical shape. This mountain affords a singular contrast in its very regular form, with the wild and rough rocks by which it is surrounded. Not a single tree decorates its summit; its flanks are covered with meagre turf, but the ruins on the top give it a majestic appearance. The perpendicular height of this mountain is more than one thousand eight hundred feet: no footpath leads from the middle to the summit, but there is no danger, as

has been asserted by some English tourists, in mounting its height. Castell Dinas Bran, with its ruins and views, would alone be worthy a journey to North Wales. There is still remaining of this old castle an archway in very good preservation, a part of the wall with two windows, the lower part of one of the exterior towers, and the other part of the wall that surrounded the castle, the which still distinctly marks its size and circumference: it encompasses a space of three hundred feet in length, and one hundred and fifty in breadth. It appears, from Welch chronicles, that this castle was inhabited at the beginning of the fourteenth century, but at the end of it was destroyed. It is unknown to whom it belonged originally, or who was its founder or destroyer.

At a distance of about two miles and a half towards the south-west from Llangollen is Valle Crucis Abbey, one of the most picturesque ruins. This beautiful ruin of a Cistercian convent stands on a meadow, and derives its origin from the twelfth century. Two sides of the same Gothic church are well preserved, as are several arches and pillars in the middle. A wide and high arch is extended over the vaulted and neatly-decorated entrance, in which three large windows, with their ornaments, have remained uninjured by time. Stones, loosened by antiquity, that fell down in the inside of the church, have formed a hill, from which ash-trees have grown forth, which dart their branches in a most picturesque manner through the windows of the ruin.

Half a mile from Valle Crucis is a little hill raised on a field: a statue is here erected to the Welch prince Eliseg, a very ancient monument from the seventh century.

From Llangollen I went in a post-chaise to Corwen; the road to it skirts a large, romantic valley. Towards Corwen the country assumes a milder and more pleasing appearance; the mountains diminish, the river Dee loses its characteristic wildness, and flows with majestic grandeur quietly among the fine meadows in the valley. The little town Corwen is smaller and more miserable than Llangollen; it lies at the foot of a row of high, grey rocks, and consists, at the utmost, of one hundred houses; the poorest part of it is built upon the rock itself. It is very remarkable, that in this mise-

table town an inn is fitted up in the most elegant style, equal to those in the great cities of England, which offers luxurious accommodation to the traveller. Beyond Corwen the country is flat; the soil appears to be fertile, but not much cultivated.

Llanrwst is situated on the river Conway in a beautiful valley; it is larger and contains more inhabitants than Llangollen, but is nearly as badly built. It has, besides a church, a large chapel belonging to the Methodists, which is much frequented by the inhabitants. Seven miles from thence is the romantic valley Capel Cerrig, and close to it the famous cataract Rhaiadr-y-Wenol. At a little distance from Capel Cerrig, Lord Penrhyn caused a fine hotel to be built, which has the appearance of a small Gothic chapel.

This romantic valley is much frequented in summer. Not far from hence is a pond, from which you have a view of the majestic Snowdon, whose summit loses itself in the clouds.

The cataract Rhaiadr-y-Wenol is about two miles distant from Capel Cerrig. The bed of the river is nearly forty feet in breadth, and the depth of its fall more than seventy. The river precipitates itself over three immense rocks down the valley, but near the side of the road it has split the rocks, and part of it tumbles down perpendicularly in a deep bason. The rocks are surrounded by high oaks and birch-trees ; rivulets burst through the branches of the road, one of which plunges on one side of the high road into a subterranean passage, and reappears on the other side of the road.

After I left Llanrwst I went to Conway, an old Welch fortress situated on the mouth of the river Conway : the town itself is of no importance, and seems in its decline ; many houses stand empty. From want of trade much poverty prevails here. The only curiosity of this place is the ruin of the old castle, which was built in the thirteenth century.

On my way to Holyhead I passed an enormous rock, called Penmanmawr, which extends itself to the sea, and in whose steep sides a road has been cut, two hundred and forty feet above the level of the ocean ; it is guarded by a stone wall towards the sea-side. Bangor, a town of some consequence, is situated in a valley, with a beautiful view on the fine bay of Beaumaris. The road from hence to Holyhead leads

through Anglesea, a flat and healthy country. Towards the west rises the Parys-mountain, a rich copper-mine of Anglesea, which yields nearly thirty thousand pounds a year to its proprietors. Very few boroughs are to be seen on the road to Holyhead. At this place, notwithstanding its great connection with Ireland, not one branch of industry prospers. Packets sail from hence to Dublin every day, except Thursdays. The town is small, dirty, and miserable. I met with nothing remarkable but a Welch bard, who visits every house, and accompanies his harp with old Welch songs, which procures him refreshment from the inhabitants.

The ancient national spirit of the Welch has still preserved itself in the middling class of citizens, and amongst the country people of North Wales;

they live separately, and have inherited the ideas of their forefathers. With this class of people there is still manifest an almost unconquerable shyness towards all strangers, and an aversion to the English, whom they less envy (for the Welch people are very content and without pretensions) than hate, on account of their pride. The Welch associate together with great intimacy, talk only the old language of the country, and revere the memory of those times, when their bards composed those amorous songs, which are still sung to the harp with enthusiasm by the young people of Wales. The dreams and images of the glorious deeds of their ancestors are, as it were, the poetry of their life.

It is chiefly owing to the aversion of the common people in Wales to the

English, that the cultivation of the latter has not yet found its way to the Welch towns; but every attentive observer will assign the cause of it greatly to the neglect of the English government towards the education of the lower order of people in Wales. There are neither public schools, nor have they provided for the improvement of the common people by cultivated and proper priests. No institutions are established for encouraging them to national industry, or to making them acquainted with the English manufactures; and here we may look for the cause which nourishes and inflames the old hatred: and it is the same cause which has disunited, in the East and West Indies, and particularly in Ireland, the spirit of the nation. Many resources would have offered themselves to form a permanent alliance

of fidelity and attachment between the conqueror and the conquered, but the policy of the English left this for time to accomplish.

The Welch people are poor, ignorant, and superstitious ; inevitable consequences resulting from the above-stated reasons.

The Welch language is soft, and said to be very rich and cultivated. About two hundred books have been printed in Wales ; the greatest part are translations from English works. The colleges of Cambridge and Oxford are in possession of a great many Welch manuscripts.

The Welch language being very difficult, and the knowledge of it not

appearing to repay the trouble of learning it, few Englishmen devote any attention to it. But this ignorance of the English in the Welch language, and that of the Welch in the English language, produces in the course of civil life often prejudicial consequences: these are particularly manifest at the courts of justice in some parts of North Wales; for the common people are unacquainted with the English laws, according to which they are, however, governed.

In their domestic life the Welch are very happy, and they are known for their hospitality, good-nature, and cordial sociability. The latter may be easily discovered at the fairs of the small Welch towns. A fair is a festival for all the inhabitants of the neigh-

bourhood, because on that day all friends and acquaintances meet in town to pass some happy hours with each other. The inns are filled with people; who eat and drink together with as much cordiality as if they were members of one family strongly attached to each other.

Whoever has seen the Welch citizens and peasants assembled on such occasions, would take them for very gay, cheerful people; yet the manly character in Wales is still more grave than that in England. Fanaticism and melancholy are more frequent amongst the Welch than the English. From this it appears clear, why Methodism so well prospers in this country. This gloomy seet is to be met with throughout the whole of

North Wales; it has also founded a meeting at Holyhead, as I have been informed, whence, it is to be hoped, it will proceed no farther.

THE END.

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